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NO. 16.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

MANURE FROM THE OCEAN.

Our correspondent "Amon," has our thanks for his communication on sea weed, &c., for manure.

We have long been impressed with the idea, as we said not long ago, that we ought to make more use of ocean products in the manufacture of fertilizers. We are all of us too ignorant of the real uses of these matters. We all know something about them. Some of us have used sea weeds, and fish, and muscle bed for manure, but yet we are very ignorant of the true and exact properties, and cannot tell all the uses to which they may be put, or where, and in what shape they may be most useful.

The experiment of drying and packing sea weeds for transportation into the interior, and its use then, ought to be tried. As our correspondent observes—sea weeds ought to be analyzed both in a dry and in a green state. Does the drying change its properties any? Is there anything more than the water evaporated, or is there any chemical change in its ingredients? No body knows as yet, certainly, about it.

We hope the agricultural societies on the sea board will take this subject into consideration, and by practical experiments, both agricultural and chemical, elicit information that can be relied upon.

We have three hundred miles and probably more, of the seacoast. What immense, incalculable amounts of fertilizers are spread on and about them, fertilizers too, which, when gathered, will in a short time reproduce themselves without any labor or care of man, thus furnishing a perpetual harvest for the use and benefit of man.

Why does he neglect it? Why remain ignorant of their properties and uses? Why do so many refrain from even asking a question, or bestowing a thought upon them? We have no doubt when a thorough investigation is made, that it will be found that every department of the ocean, its waters, its vegetables, its animals and its mineral matters, may all be used as valuable fertilizers of our soils, and thus converted into productive crops and rich food for man.

Our Legislature have given \$500 for the growth of flax in Maine. We hope the time will come when they will give double that to encourage experiments and elicit knowledge on the subject of ocean fertilizers. Until then the State Society, and the Seaboard County Agricultural Society ought to do what they can in this matter.

BRO. SWIFT AND HIS LIME THEORIES.

Bro. Swift in his last Chronicle after copying our remarks in regard to his theory of the action of lime, adds the following:—

He asks are there any proofs that any soil lacks soluble silica? There are abundant proofs that some soils either lack sufficient soluble silica for the requirements of the crop, or if there is enough of it something else is lacking, which shall enable the crop to take it up. The first is most likely to be the case, because, according to the present belief there is generally ammonia enough present to combine with it and bring it to a condition in which the crop can take it up. However let us hear Bro. Swift:—

"We are under many obligations to the Doctor for his science, and for his sound practical suggestions. We are ready to modify or give up our theory so far as it may be disproved by facts, but all the facts we have yet learned are on one side—our side of the question. Shall we add a few comments, Doctor?"

1. Is there any proof that any soil lacks 'soluble silica'? All decomposed vegetable matter furnishes it, and those sandy barrens which contain hardly anything but grains of crystallized quartz, furnish sufficient 'soluble silica' to produce a profusion of growth in the pines and coarse grasses which grow naturally on such soils, and which have in their composition the largest quantity of silica. And has it ever been shown that lime assists in decomposing silica? Lime does assist in decomposing all the compounds of iron, and is used to produce a flux in foundries; but we believe a different agent is relied upon to produce a flux in glass manufactories. So much in disproof of Dr. Stewart's theory.

2. In relation to Ruffin and his critics. Free acids and other principles may exist in soils so as to affect vegetation, and yet elude the scrutiny of the chemist. For proof we may state that the application of a small quantity of guano to an acre of soil may produce an immense increase of vegetation, while the chemist may take a portion of the soil, and though he may analyze it with the utmost care, he cannot detect any change in the character of the soil, or any addition of new ingredients. Oxalic acid, or the sour juice of any plant, has a singular affinity for iron, and will so combine with it as to form black oxide. Sorrel will grow in profusion on soils which abound in iron, but the addition of calcareous substances—by forming new combinations with the iron, and liberating the foot of other vegetables, will so increase the growth of other forms of vegetation as to drive the sorrel from the soil. Oxalic acid and iron may be two 'toxins of vegetation,' which require similar applications to the soil, but we incline to the belief that Ruffin's theory is founded in a mistake.

3. Are there any soils in which the 'salts of iron' are not discoverable? We think there are not, and that there cannot be, because electrical currents constantly distribute—in electrical solution—this most important of all metals, throughout every portion of the globe. Granite

is a very imperfect conductor, and granite, commonly, is nearly free from iron, and granitic soils are famed for their fertility. But the best of soils are those in which lime exists in sufficient quantities to take up all the iron which the soil receives from impregnated (hard) water, or from any other source.

4. An argument for our theory is found in the fact that underdraining side hills, so that the hard, or iron-impregnated water is carried off below, restores astonishing fertility to such soils, as soon as the unpregnated rain water has leached a part of the iron from the surface, carrying it off through the under drains.

5. Another argument is found in the discovery that pulverized unburnt lime is best for manure, as its gradual decomposition keeps even pace with the various forms of decomposition and recombination effected by the growth and decay of vegetation.

6. Still another argument is found in the fact that experiments have demonstrated that a large amount of copperas will destroy the fertility of the richest soils, and even entirely neutralize the effects of animal manures."

CULTURE OF FLAX IN MAINE.

We take up this subject once more, though we fear our readers may think that we give them too much of it. This time, however, we come holding out more inducements for a trial than heretofore, being no less than a five hundred dollar bounty offered by the State. We give you below, the bill as it was passed by the last Legislature:—

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred dollars is hereby placed in the hands of the Maine State Agricultural Society for the encouragement of the raising of flax in this State, to be appropriated in such manner as in their judgment will best subserve such purpose. And the Governor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant on the treasury for the same.

This is a pretty liberal bounty for the encouragement of raising a crop which will grow almost as easy with us as grass.

The State Society took up the subject the other day, and voted to offer the whole in premiums, distributing \$400 among the County Societies, and reserving \$100 to be offered in premiums by the State Society. Now, brother farmers, let us hear from you on the subject.

For the Maine Farmer.

SEA WEEDS FOR MANURE.

Mr. Editor:—As it regards preparing sea weed and transporting it into the interior of the State, I have no doubt of its utility, and it might be made a profitable business if the subject could come before the public in its true light.

The public are now in the dark about the true elements, or the real properties contained in sea weeds. The subject is worthy of consideration. The shores of the bays and harbors are lined with sea weeds, and by partially drying it could be pressed into bales like hay and sent up our rivers and over our railroads, and used to as good advantage as we use it who live near the sea shore, and perhaps better, for this reason,—land near the sea shore is more or less impregnated with salt, for in heavy gales of wind the vapors and fogs are driven back from the shore for miles, consequently salt manure would not have the same effect as it would in the interior where the soil is pure and fresh, therefore sea weeds would operate in a more powerful manner, so much more that it would pay the difference of the expense of transporting, if not more. Sea weeds, put under cover, and kept from the rains, in a short time will decompose and become dry and will have the appearance of old stable manure, and about the same weight. Query—Will it cord of green sea weed, when reduced by age to a dry substance, contain as much of the fertilizing matter as when in its green or original state? If one third or more of its properties should be lost in drying, it would be so much lighter to transport, perhaps it would be economy to use the dried, I see nothing to hinder transporting partially dried sea weeds to any part of the country where there is a railroad near the sea shores, provided it was packed in suitable packages, except it would be liable to ferment, and the more compact the sooner it would begin fermenting. This would create a liquid substance, consequently it would give out a disagreeable smell and would render it objectionable to transport. Perhaps these objections are not very fatal, as steamboats and railroads could take it to almost any place desired before it could have time to 'heat' enough to do any damage. Would it not be advisable to have sea weed analyzed while in its original state and also when dried? We could then ascertain what the comparative value would be. Will some of our chemists analyze a small quantity of sea weed when in a green and also when in a dry condition, and report the result? Perhaps, if a sea weed could be properly managed and its fertilizing properties developed, it might take the place of guano and other manures that are sold in our markets, and probably at a much less cost.

The supply on the sea shores is inexhaustible, inasmuch as when one crop is removed a volunteer crop succeeds and comes to maturity in about two years. As it regards using fish for manure, there can be no doubt of its practicability. Our harbors swarm with the menhaden, in the summer season. They can be taken in any quantities in any of the numerous coves on the sea coast of the State, and the time is not far distant when our capitalists will turn their attention to manufacturing domestic manures which will be used in place of the foreign. We occasionally use fish for top dressing, and find them a very powerful fertilizer, but on account of the stench they give out, the use of them is very limited. I have thought, if menhaden, or any kind of fish, could be mixed with guano or loam, and there remain until the fish decomposed, it would be a good manure; the fish should be well mixed and covered with guano or something else to keep the volatile gases from escaping. The proportion of the mixture I should think would be of equal parts, perhaps less than one half fish would be as profitable. I intend to try an experiment with fish mixed with guano, in due time.

Amon.

Stevens, April 2, 1855.

FLAX CULTURE IN MAINE.

Mr. Editor:—It is a matter of interest to the farmers, and should be to every well wisher to agricultural progress, that another effort, and that not only with able, but willing hands, is being made to introduce and encourage the growth of flax and its manufacture into the State.

A company having been incorporated for that purpose, and the Legislature, with more their accustomed liberality, having made a small appropriation for the purchase of seed, as an encouragement, that success may attend their efforts, is much to be wished, but their success must altogether depend upon the good will with which the farmers enter into the spirit of their enterprise.

That our farmers are much in want of a staple crop that will at all times command the cash, and a fair price, is most true, and that such a one is offered in the culture of flax, is certain. It is true that more than a generation of men has passed away since it was much grown in the State. It was, beyond what was wanted for domestic consumption, a good paying crop. The oil made from the seed was nearly equal to the consumption at that time at the various oil mills scattered over the State, and not one of that class can now be found within it, one or two large establishments excepted, which has not made its oil from seed imported from Bengal, which could quite as well have been grown at home. The seed at these mills was usually exchanged, a bushel for a gallon of oil. The improved methods of manure will, with a bushel of seed, produce two gallons of oil.

Those of our readers, Mr. Editor, that have had the wisdom to preserve files of the Farmer, may find in them many articles upon the subject of flax, its growth, manufacture and statistics of importation, which they would do well to refer to.

A few years since, some gentlemen interested in patents for the preparation of flax for the spinners, and the writer of this, made the attempt to get it grown to an extent sufficient to warrant them in erecting works in this city, as being the most central point.

Seed was imported and distributed to all that called for it; handsome premiums were offered through the Kennebec Agricultural Society, which were obtained and paid, and all the flax offered was purchased at twelve dollars per ton. Some of which was of a very superior quality, other parcels were not worth carrying home. But as a crop for the labor bestowed, paid as well as most crops, the farmers raised, nothing from twenty-five to forty-five dollars the acre. From ground properly prepared, from twenty to thirty hundred of flax, and ten to fifteen bushels of seed may be safely expected.

In Ireland, Holland, Belgium, and other flax countries, where it is raised only for lint, from these six bushels of seed is sown to the acre, as they desire the fineness of the lint to be, when only grown with a view to seed, from three to five pecks is sufficient; but the lint is coarse and of little value. In Ireland it is not considered an exhausting crop. Clover being generally sown with it; pulling the flax cuttings the clover, which gives it a rapid growth, the method of "Clare" should be introduced for its preparation, and the manufacture of flax, cotton, the pulling of flax may be dispensed with, and this is the great item in its production, and cradling take its place, and with but slight loss in the product. Flax, for the growth of seed alone is one of the most profitable crops, next to hay and corn, and for the labor bestowed, quite as profitable as the latter. Much, very much more so than cotton, which was depended upon more than any other crop for the raising of cash, and not more exhausting to the soil. Oats at an average crop of forty to fifty bushels an acre will not average, nevertheless, six sixteen to twenty dollars, flax seed, if grown for that alone, will be from fifteen to eighteen bushels to the acre, and if well cleaned will be worth one dollar and fifty cents for crushing, when Bengal seed is worth one dollar and seventy-five cents—villages price currents notwithstanding—the stocks left will be of equal value to the straw, showing a difference of six or seven dollars in favor of the flax crop.

Even the hay crop, for exportation, from the numerous railroads that radiate from Boston into the country, this was our most profitable market, has been cut off, at least as a profitable one; hence the inducement for farmers to look to some other crop than oats and hay, and what better can they find, and better adapted to our soils and short seasons than flax, which may be sown as early in the spring as the ground can be prepared, and to the first of July? It will grow most luxuriantly upon burnt land, the virgin soil and fresh ash being the best of stimulants.

AGRICOL.

Augusta, March 21, 1855.

For the Maine Farmer.

POTATOES—A SUPERIOR VARIETY.

Mr. Editor:—Have you ever heard of the variety of potato called the "State of Maine," or "Beane Potato"? If not, let me inform you that it is one of the best, if not the very best potato, I have ever seen. It was obtained from the ball, by a Mr. Beane of Hebron, in this State, some three or four years since, and has, as yet, obtained but a limited circulation. I obtained a few to plant, last year, and put a barrel of them into the cellar, in autumn. They are a white potato, of the finest and most delicate grain, kidney shaped, very smooth, as early as the "early blues," and yield a very good crop. Of fifteen varieties planted in my field, last year, this kind gave double the yield of any other variety, and were every way superior for the table. I can recommend this variety of this fine vegetable, the potato, to anybody, both for field and garden culture, but I cannot state, at present, where they can be obtained. They were raised to some extent, last season, in the vicinity of Mechanic Falls, Minot. Z. THORNTON.

Bethel, April 2, 1855.

SALT FOR HORSES. Deposit a lump of rock salt in your horse's manger, and allow him to have free access to it.

APPLES FOR CULTIVATION, No. 2.

Roxbury Russet. What is the present reputation of this old standard variety in Kennebec? Some years since I knew of orchards there that had been set to that fruit for marketing, and for a series of years they produced but little, and the profits were next to nothing. In Piscataquis they are a poor bearer, and other long keeping varieties are taking their place. Baldpate, (Yellow Baldpate) that enters upon every gentleman's selection, has not met our expectations here. Instead of being "very nice," as in Augusta, we vote it down to second rate. Fruit is seldom fair, and not a good bearer. Some trees in light, dry soil, are said to be doing well.

Black Oxford sustains its well earned reputation. It is an early and good bearer when grafted on the heads of large trees, but makes slow progress in the nursery. My trial with it has not been long continued, and my conclusions may be hasty.

Talman Sweet has been well tested here. It is liable to overbear, making an insipid and immature crop, followed by a year of barrenness. Ladies' Sweeting is superlative.

Danvers' Winter Sweet is also being introduced.

Blue Pearmain is a slow grower, but the fruit keeps well, and is excellent when we can get it. Red Canada, (Old Nonsuch) is valuable as a long-keeping dessert apple.

Black Gilliflower, that finds a place in select lists of long-keepers for N. Y., and West, has disappointed us. It will keep, but is soon loses its juices and flavor, becoming insipid and valueless.

For early varieties that succeed well, we have Yellow Harvest, Williams' Favorite, Early Red Margaret, Spies of Wine, Summer Queen, Hightop Sweeting, &c.

It may be remarked, that apples in the high latitude of Piscataquis, are generally less marked with red, than the same varieties produced farther south. The difference in shading is considerable between this and Kennebec even. I had formerly concluded this to indicate a deficiency in climate to mature the fruit; and that ours on comparison would prove wanting in richness and perfection of flavor. To satisfy myself on this point, I have exchanged fruits by the barrel with producers in Mass., and improved every opportunity to compare with all parts of the country, and have settled on the conviction, that nearly every variety yet tested here, is produced closely to the standard of excellence. A slight falling off in the Baldwin is observable, and this, by the way, is more sensitive to cold than any other tree we cultivate.

Deficiency in color in varieties where red predominates, has caused much perplexity here in identifying long cultivated kinds, by descriptive catalogues. This deficiency is considerable in the Baldwin and Hubbardston Nonsuch, and most striking in the Northend.

Gilpin, valuable in Virginia and Kentucky for its keeping qualities. One of the best market apples on the whole length of the Mississippi, proves hardly here, and is really valuable as retaining its flavor in perfection to Spring and Summer. It is a most prodigious bearer.

Cony, a good Winter apple. I cut sections from a tree on the Brooks farm, Medford, Mass., which tree covered one tenth of an acre. It is an old and well known variety in that vicinity. The tree is a rapid and hardy grower; so far as tested here, it promises well.

Seakonk. In prime here during October and November. Origin, Seakonk, Mass. Size, medium; form, nearly globular, slightly oblong; entirely covered with dark red; flesh firm; fine grained, yellow, much tinged with red; flavor, rich, aromatic, pleasant subacid; core small, close; stem short, inserted in a regular shallow cavity; eye set in a shallow basin. The tree is a good grower, hardy, and a profuse and early bearer.

I grafted the entire top of a moderate sized tree in a thick-set orchard, and in five years after grafting it had borne more than 12 bushels of apples. I have observed this fruit most in Worcester, Co., Mass. Have never seen it otherwise than fair and fine. It throws into the shade, our Porters, and most other apples of the same season, wherever introduced. A Seakonk tree with its ripe fruit, is the most beautiful object that can be set on a well kept farm or garden.

C. C.

Fozcroft, March 22, 1855.

New BUILDING MATERIAL. We have been shown a sample of a new building material. It is a kind of brick made with dead air spaces, and possessing all the beauty and hardness of granite. It is made of dry lime and dry sand, in the proportion of one twelfth line and eleven twelfths sand, laid in moulds and subject to an equal pressure of one hundred tons. The time is slackened and the sand is sifted. The pressure is sufficient to cause all the particles to come in contact, forming a beautiful material. The brick can be of course be made of any form or shape according to taste. It is fully equal to sand stone and is much cheaper than common brick or stone. The advantages are the facility with which they are manufactured, lathing and plastering becomes unnecessary, and the outside and inside of the wall is made at the same time.

The chemical change which takes place in the manufacture of the bricks hardens them so that they are not more affected by the action of the atmosphere than stone. It is not affected by frost, and experiments with other qualities have revealed satisfactorily. Scientific men have examined the material, and have all arrived at the same conclusion. It has been used in some places in the West for building, but not in this section of the country. A fine dwelling house is about to be built in Danvers of this new material. (Real Estate Register.)

HARRIS WORDS are like hailstones in summer, which, if melted, would fertilize the tender plants they batter down.

THE SPRING-FLIGHT OF THE WILD GEESSE.

BY ISAAC MACLELLAN.

Sailing through the solemn midnight,
Underneath the frosty moon,
I saw the changing plumage
Of each shadowy platoon;
Hear the winged hosts' commotion,
Marching toward the northern ocean:
File on file, and rank on rank,
Winnowing toward some reedy bank,
Or break fence, or marshes grey,
Far up Baffin's lonely bay.

Hawking! hawking! in their flight
Under the black cloud of night.
Sailing through the noon-day heaven,
Their battalions I discern,
Wedge-like, or in open column,
Still toward the north they turn.

Straight o'er Jervis's muddy borders,
O'er Long Island's sea-like Sound,
Past Montserrat, or Lone Fire-Island,
North, will north, unerring bound.
High above the tallest pine-trees,
High above the steepest oak,
Still unafraid, their dark pinions
Beat the clouds with steady stroke.

Winging o'er the water's ocean,
O'er the verging ship they pass,
While from the mast the sea-boy
Notes them with his up-raised glass;
And the father in his cobbles,
Drops his line to trace their flight;
And the buffed water-guards,
Hopeless, all they fade from sight.

Inland, over plain and pasture,
Over mountain, wood, and stream,
Onward speeds the long procession,
Northward the swift pinions gleam.
Through our rough, dark months of winter,
In what milder Southern clime,
Mid what lagoons and savannas
Do you pass your happy time?

Haply among sunny islands
Where Mexico's surges smile,
Mid sweet flower-smells and gay plumage
Did your socks the months beguile.
Haply amid red fountains,
Fluting o'er some lily lake,
Where the alow droops its branches,
And the palms their branches shake.

For the Maine Farmer.

AN ESSAY ON NEAT CATTLE.

The Best Breed for Maine.

BY PRESIDENT COOT.

[CONCLUDED FROM LAST WEEK.]

The Herfordshire cattle are varieties of the middle-bred, of a larger size than the Devonshire. Of these cattle Mr. Culley gives the following description:—"Color red, fine hair, and very thin skin, neck and head clean, horns neither long nor short, rather turning up at the points; in general, well made in the hind quarters, wide across the hips, rump and loin, but narrow on the chine; tolerably straight along the back; ribs or sides lying too flat, thin on the thigh and bone not large."

"It is conceived by Mr. Lawrence, (says Rees' Cyc.) that the Herfordshire variety of cattle, which at present are a mixed breed, are, in general, to be considered as having been originally derived from that of the other; a year or two earlier than either of the others; and although smallest, weighing the most in proportion to size; a thorough bred race, to which our native stock approximate nearer than to any other in character, features and color."

The following extract from Rees' Cyclopaedia is entitled to serious consideration:—"It seems universally agreed (says Mr. Donaldson) that there are two proper ties for which cattle are esteemed valuable, that cannot be united; that is a disposition to fatten, and a tendency to yield a large quantity of milk. The form of the animal most remarkable for the first is very different from that of the other; in places of being flat in the side, and big in the belly, as all great milkers are, it is high sided and light bellied; in a word, its body is barrel-formed, while that of the other is more fitted to embrace a horse collar with the wide sides downwards. If a large quantity of milk, whatever be its quality, is the object, the dairyman must content himself with plain, ill-looking animals. And as the milk of all cows is well known not to be of the same quality, it appears, he says, highly probable that in proportion as the cows of the milking tribe exceed those that are more disposed to fatten, in nearly the same proportion will their milk be inferior in quality. If this should prove to be the case, the superiority of the quick feeders, one would suppose, say he, to be completely established, as while cattle of this description are confessedly better for the purposes of the graziers, the butchers, and the consumers, they would, if this point were determined in their favor, be also more valuable for the dairy. No person will think of asserting that a gallon or two of whey or butter milk extra (for the question, he thinks, comes to that) is a sufficient reason for preferring a breed of plain-looking, ill-formed cattle, to one that, except in this particular, is more valuable in every respect. In a word, no person who pretends to a knowledge of the different breeds of cattle, will think of supporting an opinion so enormous as, that cattle which are disposed to fatten quickly, and at an early age, that, from the superior excellence of their form, have a small proportion of oil, and that, although they yield not a large quantity of milk, yet make up that deficiency in richness, are no more valuable than those which have nothing to recommend them but the single property of being great milkers."

The following suggestive extract is from an Agricultural Report for the county of Perth, England:—"There is one circumstance relative to the introduction of all new breeds, which must not be passed over in silence, because no farmer can neglect it without a certain loss. Every kind of pasture is fitted to raise animals to a particular size; when herds of a larger size are brought in, than the quality of the food is calculated to support, these animals, whether cows, horses, sheep, or any other kind, will degenerate, and never prove useful until they come down to that standard or size adapted to their situation and suited to their food. On the other hand, when a smaller breed than ordinary is brought in, they continue to increase

reckoned among the best in England as respects the production of milk, and when too old for that purpose, it fattens to a greater weight than the North Devon. The Herfordshire have maintained a long and animated contest for superiority with the short-horns in England, and, the editor thinks, it is rather gaining ground on its great rival."

The following is an extract from the letter of one of the most practical, observing, and self-reliant of the farmers of Somerset County, in this State, whose opportunities, and inclination, to criticize the several breeds, and absolute independence in drawing conclusions, entitle his opinions to the highest consideration. He says:—"I have never had any but half blood Herfordshire—lost my full blood cow when she had her first calf. The half bloods are far before the Durhams in all that is essential for good stock milk, for which they do not have so good a reputation as either Durhams or Devons. The Durhams have been fully tried in this vicinity, and found not to meet the general expectation, being too tender, of bad color, and not of a firm and compact make, and therefore requiring extra feed and care. The Herfordshire, faultless in all the above named essentials, do not grow so rapidly as the Durhams, although nearly as large. I think of going west the coming spring, to purchase a bull, either of this breed or the Devon. I hardly know which to prefer—the Devons are better milkers but not so large."

From Youatt, Allen in his "Domestic Animals" quotes, in regard to the Herfordshire, as follows:—"They are not so good milkers as the Devons. This is so generally acknowledged, that while there are many dairies of Devons in various parts of the country, a dairy of Herfordshire is rarely to be found. To compensate for this, they are even more kindly feeders than the Devons. Their best may be objected to by some as being occasionally a little too large in the bone, and the fore quarters being coarse and heavy; but the most of the best pieces is often very fine grained and beautifully marbled.—There are few cattle more prized in the market than the genuine Herfordshire."

From the preceding descriptions and testimonials it would appear that, if we select the short-horns for our stock, we shall have the largest and most shaggy cattle, and the greatest milkers; but ill adapted to our wants, because they are of the most tender constitutions, carry the coarsest beef, and require the very costliest keeps with constant care.

If we choose the Herfordshire, we shall have a stock as handsome in form as the short-horn, nearly as large, more hardy, and much quicker feeders, but poor milkers, inclining to coarseness of bone and meat, and requiring luxuriant pasturage.

If we take the Devons, we shall have (as Allen says) "great uniformity of appearance in every feature, size, shape, horns and color," and "excessive fineness and symmetry of frame," a fair quantity of a much better quality of milk, than either short-horn or Herfordshire yield, the best beef, and that most easily and cheaply made, the quickest feeders, and hardest stock; the one to stand the winter season best, and which arrives at maturity, at least, a year or two earlier than either of the others; and although smallest, weighing the most in proportion to size; a thorough bred race, to which our native stock approximate nearer than to any other in character, features and color."

The following extract from Rees' Cyclopaedia is entitled to serious consideration:—"It seems universally agreed (says Mr. Donaldson) that there are two proper ties for which cattle are esteemed valuable, that cannot be united; that is a disposition to fatten, and a tendency to yield a large quantity of milk. The form of the animal most remarkable for the first is very different from that of the other; in places of being flat in the side, and big in the belly, as all great milkers are, it is high sided and light bellied; in a word, its body is barrel-formed, while that of the other is more fitted to embrace a horse collar with the wide sides downwards. If a large quantity of milk, whatever be its quality, is the object, the dairyman must content himself with plain, ill-looking animals. And as the milk of all cows is well known not to be of the same quality, it appears, he says, highly probable that in proportion as the cows of the milking tribe exceed those that are more disposed to fatten, in nearly the same proportion will their milk be inferior in quality. If this should prove to be the case, the superiority of the quick feeders, one would suppose, say he, to be completely established, as while cattle of this description are confessedly better for the purposes of the graziers, the butchers, and the consumers, they would, if this point were determined in their favor, be also more valuable for the dairy. No person will think of asserting that a gallon or two of whey or butter milk extra (for the question, he thinks, comes to that) is a sufficient reason for preferring a breed of plain-looking, ill-formed cattle, to one that, except in this particular, is more valuable in every respect. In a word, no person who pretends to a knowledge of the different breeds of cattle, will think of supporting an opinion so enormous as, that cattle which are disposed to fatten quickly, and at an early age, that, from the superior excellence of their form, have a small proportion of oil, and that, although they yield not a large quantity of milk, yet make up that deficiency in richness, are no more valuable than those which have nothing to recommend them but the single property of being great milkers."

From pondering upon all the evidence, our conclusions must inevitably be to reject short-horns and Herfordshire, and to rest our hopes upon the Devons, which, we are told, will thrive upon what would furnish a bare subsistence to the others, and are more hardy and hearty than most of our native cattle. The more we read and hear, and the more we consider their relative merits, the clearer and more forcible becomes the deduction that the Devonshire is a race peculiarly well suited to our circumstances, the condition of our farms, and to cross upon our old stock.

WASH YOUR TREES. The coming month of April, all fruit trees should be scrubbed or scraped clean of moss, old rough bark, etc., and wash with a mixture of weak ley, root and sulphur. Say to one common water pail full of ley, put one-fourth pound of powdered sulphur, and one quart of common chimney soot or lamp black. Washing the bodies of all trees with black.

At this season of the year, will destroy insects, open the pores of the bark, and rapidly increase the growth and vigor of the tree. Lime wash should never be used—it closes the pores of the bark, and is unsightly to any cultivated trees. [Ohio Farmer.]

TAKING CARE OF THE TREES. As the frost is leaving the ground, canker-worms will soon begin to ascend the trees, unless proper means are speedily taken to prevent it. Small ladder, troughs filled with oil, and enclosing the trunks, are a good preventive. The increased crop will amply repay the expense.



THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1855.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of the corporators of the State Agricultural Society, and others desirous of organizing a State Society, was held according to notice on the 4th inst., at the State House.

Hon. Elijah Barrell of Greene, was chosen Chairman, and E. Holmes of Winthrop, Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Goodale of Saco, a certified copy of the act incorporating the Society was read.

On motion of Mr. Foster of Gardiner, the gentlemen present, not corporators, were invited to take part in the organization.

Mr. Forbes of Paris, moved to accept the charter.

A discussion arose on this motion; Mr. Foster was opposed to accepting the charter. He thought it not sufficiently liberal in its endowments and provisions.

Mr. Forbes was willing to admit that the act should have been more liberal, but nevertheless thought it best to be thankful even for a little. It was the fault of the farmers of Maine that the provisions of the act were not more liberal.

By organizing a State Society we should arouse into action many liberal sentiments and put ourselves to work under it, and rouse up the State to a more spirited action.

Mr. Foster said he well understood how the case would be with the county societies if the State Society was not organized. They were so intimately connected by this act that they could not receive any money from the State. This, he thought, would bring on a crisis, and bring the farmers to see things in a proper light.

Mr. Buxton of Warren, thought it our duty to our constituents (the county societies) to accept the charter. If it was not what we wanted, we could hereafter come forward in a corporate capacity, next year, and ask for more.

Mr. Forbes enumerated the several grants of money that were authorized by the act. They were not what he wished. To have more, the farmers of Maine must be waked up to their interests, and he for one was willing to work for that purpose.

Mr. Foster thought the farmers of Maine would be more roused up if this money act was rejected. He acknowledged that as farmers we were to blame for our apathy and supineness, but the first movements against agriculture came from other sources. He had rather organize a State Society independent of the charter granted.

Mr. Buxton urged the adoption of the charter, and thus give the county societies a right and a chance to speak to the Legislature hereafter.

Mr. Goodale considered that the convention were competent to accept or reject the charter. It was true, there were some things in it which he did not like, but nevertheless he considered this act a great advance—an improvement on former laws. If accepted and acted upon, better things would grow out of it. He gave a sketch of the origin and progress of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society.

By accepting this charter the county societies would be enabled to act more systematically and efficiently than they had hitherto done. By not accepting it, they would have to rely upon their own private resources.

On the question being taken, it was decided to accept the charter.

On motion of Mr. Fairbanks of Augusta, Messrs. Holmes, Fairbanks and Goodale, were chosen a committee to draft a constitution for the Society.

On motion of Mr. Mabry of Hiram, voted to raise a committee of three to nominate candidates for officers of the Society, and Messrs. Mabry of Hiram, Foster of Gardiner, and McKenney of Monroe, were chosen.

While these committees were out, on motion of Mr. Holmes, voted to proceed to the consideration of the act submitted to the State Society, giving \$500 for the purpose of encouraging the growth of fax in Maine.

On motion of Mr. Forbes, voted to raise a committee to take into consideration the expediency of having a Cattle Show and Fair at some time and place this year, and Messrs. Forbes, B. F. Buxton and Holmes were chosen.

The meeting then adjourned till afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Holmes, from the committee to draft a constitution, reported the draft of a constitution, which was taken up section by section, amended, and adopted.

Mr. Forbes, from the committee to consider the expediency of holding a Cattle Show and Fair, reported that it is expedient to hold a Cattle Show and Fair some time in September next.

On motion of Mr. Goodale, voted that a committee be raised to consider the subject of the location of Cattle Show, and Messrs. Foster, Maxham of Waterville, Fairbanks, Holmes and E. G. Buxton of Yarmouth, were chosen.

Mr. Mabry, from committee to report persons for officers of the Society, reported the names of Hon. Samuel Buntin of Dixmont, for President; E. Holmes of Winthrop, for Secretary; Wm. Caldwell of Augusta, for Treasurer.

The report was accepted, and the above named persons were unanimously elected.

Hon. S. P. Benson, one of the Delegates from Maine to the N. S. Ag. Society, held in Washington on the 25th of Feb., being present was called upon to inform the Society in regard to his mission. Mr. Benson then addressed the Society, giving them a statement of the doings of the U. S. Society and its prospects of usefulness, provided the farmers would do their duty to themselves.

The thanks of the Society were then tendered to Mr. Benson for the faithful discharge of his mission and good services in the cause. Mr. Benson responded to the vote of thanks and gave a statement of the feelings in Congress in regard to agricultural interests, showing that the reason why the agricultural cause did not receive more attention there, was owing to the strange neglect in farmers to protect and take care of their own interests.

On motion of Mr. Forbes, voted that a committee be raised to assist the Secretary in making out questions on blanks, for competitors to answer; and Messrs. Forbes of Paris, Percival of Waterville, Coburn of Bloomfield, Goodale of Saco, and Foster of Gardiner were chosen.

It was also voted that Messrs. Forbes, Goodale and Fairbanks be a committee to recommend the amount of premiums to be awarded at the Show and Fair, and to apportion it to the several objects.

On motion of Mr. Foster, voted that \$400 the money appropriated by the State for en-

couragement to the growth of fax be distributed among the several County Agricultural Societies to be used at their discretion for that purpose, and that \$100 be reserved to the State Society for the same purpose. Adjourned.

ELECTIONS.

Mr. Forbes from the committee to apportion money for premiums reported a schedule of the same.

On motion of Mr. Clarke, voted that the Secretary be directed to procure the printing of 2500 copies of the Act of Incorporation and the Constitution of the Society with blank leaves for signatures, and forward copies to the members of the executive committee and to the Vice Presidents.

On motion of Mr. Goodale, voted to raise a business committee to assist the Secretary in arrangements for the Fair and making out a list of premiums, and Messrs. S. P. Benson of Winthrop, Foster of Gardiner, Percival of Waterville, Fairbanks of Augusta, and I. W. Britton of Winthrop, were chosen.

On motion of Mr. Forbes voted that the Executive Committee and the several Vice Presidents be each a committee in their respective districts to enlist members, and to indicate to the Secretary the names of such persons as would make good awarding committees.

On motion of Mr. Foster, voted that a committee be raised to procure a design and plate for a diploma to be used by the Society, and Messrs. Goodale, Foster and Forbes were chosen.

The Society then voted that all unfinished business and incidental matters in relation to the Show and Fair be referred to the business committee and on motion of Mr. Fairbanks, the Society adjourned to meet at the time and place of the Show and Fair in September next.

KANSAS TERRITORY.

There is so much interest felt in this portion of our republic, at the present time, especially by those who are thinking of emigrating there, that we copy the following interesting article from the Boston Journal, of a late date. Those who think of going, would do well to peruse the letters of our Kansas correspondent, recently published in the Farmer, from which they will obtain much information concerning the resources and character of the country. The Journal says:—

"The tide of emigration flowing to Kansas Territory is immense. From all sections of the country it is pouring in, and present appearances indicate that there will be enough inhabitants in the Territory before emigration ceases to enter it."

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On motion of Mr. Foster, voted that a committee be raised to consider the subject of the location of Cattle Show, and Messrs. Foster, Maxham of Waterville, Fairbanks, Holmes and E. G. Buxton of Yarmouth, were chosen.

Mr. Mabry, from committee to report persons for officers of the Society, reported the names of Hon. Samuel Buntin of Dixmont, for President; E. Holmes of Winthrop, for Secretary; Wm. Caldwell of Augusta, for Treasurer.

The report was accepted, and the above named persons were unanimously elected.

Hon. S. P. Benson, one of the Delegates from Maine to the N. S. Ag. Society, held in Washington on the 25th of Feb., being present was called upon to inform the Society in regard to his mission. Mr. Benson then addressed the Society, giving them a statement of the doings of the U. S. Society and its prospects of usefulness, provided the farmers would do their duty to themselves.

The thanks of the Society were then tendered to Mr. Benson for the faithful discharge of his mission and good services in the cause. Mr. Benson responded to the vote of thanks and gave a statement of the feelings in Congress in regard to agricultural interests, showing that the reason why the agricultural cause did not receive more attention there, was owing to the strange neglect in farmers to protect and take care of their own interests.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

SAXTON'S RURAL HAND BOOK. The farmer and gardeners of the United States, are under everlastingly obligations to C. M. Saxton, of N. Y., for his enterprise in publishing agricultural hand books. In almost every department he has got out a neat little book, clear and concise in its directions, neat in its mechanical execution, and cheap in its price. These can be sent by mail or otherwise all over the Union, and the cultivator, who does not have some of them to read, it is his own fault, not Saxton's. Here is a notice

